

# MARC

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## February marks the 10th birthday of Mid-State!

By May a repeater was installed at the home of Tom Carroll, N9AZD, using a frequency of 145.450. By this time the club had 29 members and voted to increase the dues to \$12 per year in January of 1985 to support the costs of maintaining the repeater. The Sunday night net was established and the time was changed to 7 PM.



Paul Thomas KA9DTH and Mike Head WB9ZQE at an ARES meeting in 1984

The short weekly net included the "Westlink Report" (now known as Newsline) furnished by "Mac" McVicker W9JZV.

In September of '84 the first full-term set of officers were elected: President Paul Thomas, KA9DTH, Vice President Joan Kemp, N9DON, Sec/Treas Tom Carroll, N9AZD and Newsletter Editor Brad Stone NB9M.

In 1985 the club developed even more activities. The second Novice class was conducted by KA9OOH, the repeater moved to the water tower in Whiteland, the Kerchunker fund was established, the newsletter began publishing every two months, plans were made to initiate VE testing for the next year, the first "Goblin patrol" was organized for Halloween and long-term plans were made for participation in the PAX '87 games!

Many other events and changes were in the club's future: The new club facilities at the EOC, our own

Packet BBS, the erection of our own tower in Whiteland, new cavities, transmitter and controller, the "big move" to 450 feet in Trafalgar, club-sponsored monthly VE testing, a regular monthly newsletter and participation in the '87 Pan American games (that subsequently lead to our assisting in two equestrian events each year at the Hoosier Horse Park). The list of activities and accomplishments continues to go on and on!

That small group of amateurs who started it all ten years ago gave us our "roots"! We owe them a lot. Unfortunately, the names of the original eighteen members are not listed in the minutes! Maybe now the word will get out and we can fill-in the names of those hams who laid the foundation for a great amateur radio club in Johnson county. Better still, wouldn't it be great if these "charter members" would show up at our February meeting and help us celebrate our 10th birthday?

## Lifetime license?

The ARRL on January 6th petitioned the FCC to make Amateur Radio Operator licenses valid for a lifetime.

The League said in its petition that there is nothing in the Communications Act of 1934 that would prevent such a license term for amateurs, and that a lifetime operator's license would allow inactive amateurs to return to the Service at the same class of license without the necessity for retesting.

The League said that under the current 10-year license term, with a two-year grace period, it already is possible for inactive amateurs to remain licensed for long periods of inactivity. There is no practical difference, the League said, between such a person and one who allows his or her license to expire and later wants to again become involved in Amateur Radio.

This proposal would apply only to operator licenses; station licenses would still, by law, be limited to 10-year terms. A person with a lifetime operator license but no station license would not be permitted to operate a station of his own (but would be permitted to operate from the station of another amateur).

The League also said it was not proposing to make this rule change retroactive at this time, but, rather, to extend currently held operator licenses from 10 years to lifetime.

from the January ARRL Letter



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Indianapolis, Indiana

February 2, 1994

Greetings!

As governor of Indiana, it gives me great pleasure to congratulate the Mid-State Amateur Radio Club on your ten year anniversary.

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club has provided much needed assistance to the citizens of Indiana in their capacity to report severe weather conditions and provide emergency communications. By doing so, MARC serves as a goodwill ambassador club for the Hoosier State and for that, I am thankful.

On behalf of the citizens of Indiana thank you for your dedicated service and congratulations on a decade of amateur radio!

Sincerely,

Evan Bayh

Visitor: "How did your horse happen to win the race?"

Jockey: "Well, I just kept whispering in his ear:

Roses are red,

Violets are blue

Horses that lose,

Are made into glue!

## Mid-State Check your pride! license!

Jack Parker NT9J, is the proud father of a Princess! His daughter Christine has been selected as one of the 33 princess candidates for the 500 festival from a field of 293!



Christine is a senior at Purdue majoring in communications and is a member of the Public Relations Student Society of America. Chosen on the basis of beauty, poise and overall appearance, she will receive tickets to the race, a wardrobe from JC Penny and jewelry from G. Trapp jewelers.

The 500 festival queen and four court members will be selected from the 33 princesses on March 19th. The queen receives a \$4000 scholarship and each court member receives a \$750 scholarship. Let's hope Jack will soon be the proud father of a Queen!

Have you looked at the expiration date on your FCC license lately? Five years ago the term of an FCC amateur license went from five years to 10. So, for the past five years no licenses have expired. Licenses are now beginning to expire again, which means that it may be time for you to renew!

It's a good idea to renew at least 60 days before the expiration date on your current license. Use an FCC Form 610, available from a local VE team.

If you submit a timely renewal application, you may continue to operate even if the FCC doesn't act on the application by the expiration date.

If your renewal is late, you must stop operating until your new license arrives. Licenses that have expired for more than two years may not be renewed, which means you lose your call sign and will have to take the exam again. Don't take a chance - check your license expiration date now!



Come to the meeting this Saturday and help us celebrate our tenth birthday! We'll have a cake and everything!

We hope some of the charter members will be there to be recognized for what they created ten years ago!

# SNOW net for Skywarn



Just when you thought you knew it all, the National Weather Service office in Indianapolis has come up with a new and improved weather spotter course. They are expanding their criteria to include winter weather events. They will be looking for reports on drifting conditions, ice accumulation, power outages and falling trees due to ice.

The snow net will be activated by the NWS when snow/freezing precipitation advisories or warnings are issued and the event is expected to be serious enough to require spotter information.

According to Shawn Hawley, project coordinator at the NWS, each county will report as they have in the past to their net control. The information passed along to the State Net will be packaged and sent via packet radio to the NWS.

SKYWARN certification will become more formal with this new program. Each spotter will be given a short test following the class. It will insure that each spotter has the proper training. Additionally, each spotter will have their own ID number which will allow for rapid identification and lead to greater flexibility of the spotting system.

The NWS will use this database of information to create reports, monitor spotter capabilities and availability and to compile statistics. Hawley stresses, that you do not have to take the training or be

certified to participate in an ARES weather net. Their goal though, is to get all hams who are interested in the SKYWARN program properly trained and identified for reporting purposes.

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is on the list to be trained. Everyone will be notified of the time and date when the NWS schedules the class.

## Guest speaker this saturday

Spring is just around the corner. So says the local groundhog. As we begin to make that long awaited transition from winter to spring the atmosphere becomes unsettled. The seasonal threat of severe thunderstorms and tornados crosses everyone's mind.

In advance of another tornado season we will have as our special guest Ben Woods, Meteorologist for WISH-TV. Ben will be discussing the Sky Warn program and will be illustrating what weather spotters need to look for during severe weather.

Ben is no stranger to the Sky Warn program. As a National Weather Service forecaster in North Carolina, Ben worked closely with area hams during severe weather situations. In 1989 he traded his government job for the bright lights of TV. Ben joined the WISH-TV weather staff three years ago.

As a staff meteorologist Ben not only forecasts the weather but has been responsible for developing the new WISH-TV 24-hour weather

channel. It can be seen on most area cable stations.

During severe weather outbreaks in central Indiana you'll find Ben riding shotgun in a channel 8 Live truck chasing storms and bringing the results to the viewers at home.

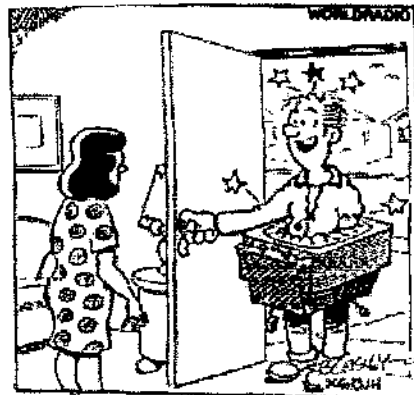
All club members are encouraged to bring a friend and experience an interesting morning with Ben Woods.

## New 610 form

Beginning March 1st the FCC will accept only the new version of its Form 610, as explained in the February issue of QST. Use of the new form applies to everyone, from new licensees to renewals, call sign changes, etc.

In early February the ARRL will supply all its VE teams with the new form with instructions to begin using it on February 12th. Amateurs who are considering license renewals, etc. can obtain the new form from any VE testing team in their area.

The new 610 conforms to the needs of the new computer system that the FCC is using and all older forms will not be accepted.



I FINALLY GOT OUR NEIGHBOR TO GET RID OF THAT OLD STALE TV THAT I'VE BEEN BOTHERING ON 15 METERS!



## How to boil a frog



A famous French chef woke one morning with a vision of a new wonderful culinary creation, "Frog Parisian avec Legumes," and he began creating the dish. He put water in a pan, cranked up the heat, and waited for a vigorous boil. He added a few herbs and vegetables, then pitched in the unsuspecting frog.

But the frog was wise enough not to cooperate. When the chef pitched that green fellow in the hot water, he jumped back out within a heartbeat. Short of breaking the frog's legs and spoiling the dish, the chef's original method just wouldn't work!

So the chef invented another approach. He diced cucumbers, peppers and a sweet Bermuda onion, and added a pinch of parsley. Then he poured just enough warm water into the pan to cover the vegetables. When that was accomplished, he placed the frog gently onto the cucumber "lily pads," and gave him a piece of celery to munch. Content, the frog stayed put.

When the chef eased up the heat, the frog just laid back, enjoying the tepid water, and as our chef slowly added heat, the frog continued to cooperate. In effect, he accepted the chef's invitation to become guest of honor at the feast!

What does this have to do with ham radio? Let's pretend the chef is our club, and our guest of honor, Mr. Frog, is a new member. And let us assume a goal more noble than having our new member for dinner; we want him or her to get involved in club activities, or at least enjoy the ham radio experience.

If we pitch this new club member directly into a pan of hot water, he or she will probably jump out! But if we prepare an enjoyable environment where the new member can relax, that person may become hooked for life.

What can we, the general membership, do to help? We can run for office, volunteer for a committee, participate in club events, or just show up at meetings, and be friendly to new members. We can create a trusting, enthusiastic, encouraging, and cooperative environment for our new members. This will help bring in more new members, keep the old hands, rejuvenate the tired, and revitalize the aged sages!

We just have to get smarter about how we "boil our frogs!"

from the Nov 93 newsletter of the Arlington ARC and ARNS.

## Alarm clock

Let a duck be your alarm clock and wake at the quack of dawn.

## The lost art..



Nobody expects any one repeater to have all the most compelling conversations to monitor, but wouldn't it be great to have a repeater that would be the one most likely to host a listenable conversation?

Consider the diversity of our membership! We have teachers, policemen, firemen, electricians, dentists, truck drivers, train engineers, machinists, students, computer techs, electronic technicians, mechanics, insurance salesmen, yachtsmen, photographers, chemists, accountants, opticians, and many more, including a group of retirees with lifetime experiences to relate!

Hobbies listed on member applications include golfing, fishing, antenna design, bicycling, woodworking, camping, hunting, gardening, boating, reading, model railroading, bowling, radio controlled aircraft, public speaking, photography, flying, skiing, and bag-piping!

The repeater is there for all to use. This includes the regular rag-chewing we have always had. But every once in a while why not throw an occasional curve? Get them talking about their own special interests! You can start it all by just asking them a question!

-NV9K

# A user's guide to repeaters

This is part 2 of an article courtesy of "The Tri-State's Wide Area Repeater System."

## What is a link?

Another way of extending communications range is with a link. A link simply ties two repeaters together. So, what is heard on one repeater is heard in another. This is the case of the 145.15 and 146.925 repeaters.

Let's say you're driving from Madisonville, KY to Terre Haute, IN. You start out using the 145.15 repeater in Evansville. You're talking away to someone, and before long you notice you're almost to Vincennes and the repeater is sounding a little noisy.

Instead of stopping the conversation, all you have to do is change your radio to 146.925, the Vincennes repeater. Then you can talk to your friend on 145.15 by using the repeater closer to you, the 146.925. You can then drive until you run out of range of the Vincennes repeater, which will be around Terre Haute. In this way, you are talking with a friend on a repeater he's not even using!

By using multiple links, regions of the country can be interconnected for thousands of miles of repeater coverage. Some links are continuous, or full time. The link is never turned off, except for when an autopatch is in progress. Others may be activated with DTMF tones so that the link can be turned on and off as desired.

Repeater control operators are usually the only ones with link DTMF codes. An example of such a part-time link is the 145.45 Petersburg and 147.00 Winslow repeaters.

## What is an autopatch?

An autopatch is an automatic phone patch. A phone line is connected to a radio so that you can make phone calls over the radio. An autopatch is initiated by pressing the proper code on the DTMF pad of your radio. Most repeaters require that you enter the on code and the phone number all in one transmission. The repeater then dials the number, and you can begin talking on the phone.

A few older autopatches require that you use the on code, unkey, wait for a dial tone, and then dial your number. Please check with the repeater owner. In either case, remember that autopatches are half-duplex.

This means that while your mike is keyed, you can not hear the person on the phone. So the person on the phone may be saying something that you can't hear! It is often helpful to tell the person you're calling that you are on an autopatch and that they will not be able to talk until you stop talking.

The autopatch usually has a timer, much like the repeater timer, of three to five minutes. This is intended to keep calls short so that other people can use the repeater. If the autopatch beeps or tells you that the timer is running short, you have a very short time to finish your call. The autopatch is then ended by the off code from your

DTMF pad. These codes can be obtained from the owner(s) of the repeater you wish to use. Most clubs or owners suggest that you make a small donation to the autopatch fund to help pay for the phone line and the upkeep of the repeater. Contact the repeater owner(s) for details.

It is a common courtesy to repeater owners and users that you identify yourself as using the autopatch before dialing. Most control operators will shut the patch off in progress unless you do so. This is simply for security purposes. Unfortunately, some pranksters may decide to call 911 at 3am for no reason at all. By identifying your station before you make the call, the control operators listening will know that the call is OK.

You should then again identify as turning off the patch after you have entered the off code and the repeater has acknowledged that the autopatch is now off.

Part 3 will conclude the article in the March Issue of Spark-Gap. Thanks again to Charlie N9MEW for the entire article.

## The shack goes Russian!

Tandy Corp. has opened its first Radio Shack in Russia. The Moscow store, which officially opened January 14th is "identical in look and layout" to stores in the US, according to Tandy. The store is franchised to the Trident Group, a Florida-based international distribution company, and is managed by Trident A/O, a Russian company.

# Marconi's DX

When Marconi arrived on Cape Cod in 1901 to construct an experimental station, his wireless telegraphy had transmitted across the English Channel and assisted in dramatic sea rescues. He intended to prove it could also carry signals across the Atlantic!

Cape Cod residents were suspicious of his fame and of his fancy ideas, so they refused to sell him land. After much persuasion, Marconi talked a local salvager into parting with eight acres. Then he hired locals to erect 20 towers, using the tall masts of sailing ships.

Skeptical neighbors crowded the site, shaking their heads and mumbling, "It'll blow down in the first northeaster!" On November 25, 1901 a storm did indeed knock Marconi's towers down. He rebuilt, using timbers buried deep in the sand and buttressed the towers with planks and steel cables.

Even Thomas Edison declared what Marconi attempted impossible. As the year drew to a close, Marconi worked feverishly, ignoring his neighbors. He hired a local, Charlie Paine, to wait outside the "shack" with his horse so that news of the second Marconi success could be rushed to the Wellsfleet telegraph office and thence to the rest of the world.

January 18, 1903 was bitterly cold. Paine threw an extra blanket on his horse Diamond, and huddled in his Alaska-wolf coat, waiting as blue sparks made jagged arcs across the sky above him.

Marconi burst out of the station with white telegraph tape drooping

from both hands with greetings exchanged between President Theodore Roosevelt and England's King Edward. He had jumped the radio wave 6,000 miles to England and back! Marconi shouted, "Drive like the wind! If your horse falls dead, I'll buy you another!"

"I started off for Wellsfleet as fast as the horse could go while Marconi could see me," Charlie Paine said, "but I wasn't about to let some agitated outsider tell me what to do. When I got over the dunes, I slowed down. I wasn't going to kill my horse for nobody, famous or not!"

Eventually Charlie Paine got the message to the telegraph operator at Wellsfleet and Marconi celebrated the event with a late night dinner of goose with gravy.

So, though Marconi's success on Cape Cod paved the way for modern radio communications, it was one of his Cape Cod neighbors who had the last word—or at least controlled how fast the word got out!

by Kathryn Griffin Swegart in Yankee Magazine.

## AM-SAT says NO to instant license!

AMSAT-North America says it does not want to see an instant ham license in the United States. The ham radio space research organization has filed comments with the FCC in opposition to the instant licensing proposal contained in a Notice of Proposed Rule Making.

Under the FCC's proposal, unlicensed persons who pass an amateur license examination for the first time would immediately be permitted to operate for up to 120 days. This, using self-assigned call signs, while waiting for their licenses to arrive.

But in its opposition filing, AMSAT cited the potential for abuse by persons who have no intention of taking a ham radio test and want to be able to bootleg without being noticed. It also says that it will be impossible to verify the self-assigned calls since they would not be registered in any data base.

AMSAT prefers the use of electronic filing of ham applications.

## Hamfest table

Spring must be just around the corner! It has to be! The first official hamfest for the spring of '94 is just four weeks away. The Indianapolis Hamfest will be held Sunday, March 13th beginning at 8 am.

The annual relief to cabin fever will be held in the East Pavillion building at the state fair grounds. Take note, though; it will now cost you \$2.00 to park! That's a new fair grounds policy. Oops! That great hamfest bargain just got two dollars more expensive.

Plans are being made to have a club information table at the hamfest. Anyone planning on attending the day long event is asked to sign up for a tour of duty behind the table. A sign up list will be passed around at the meeting this weekend. We have a great club. Let's spread the word. -NT9J.

# How to respond to an emergency

By Marty Schmeltz, N80VX

Amateurs provide a valuable service when they report accidents and emergencies. But they sometimes cause confusion. The police dispatcher or operator may not understand that the Amateur on the telephone can't talk duplex to the Amateur at the site.

Always give the operator the *who, what, where, when*, and if appropriate, the *why* of the emergency situation. But the most common complaint is that Amateurs and other non-professionals try to give all the information in a single long transmission. It works much better to give each of the "Five W's" in a short phrase, then stand by for confirmation.

For example, start by giving the *who*. Tell the operator you are a radio Amateur and you're calling on your radio. Then stand by for confirmation. It's no use talking on if you're not copyable.

Say "break" or "over" at the end of each transmission. Why? Because in their language, break means "I still have more information for you, but please acknowledge what I have already said." They will prompt you with, "Go ahead."

Next report the *what* and maybe



the *when* if it's a simple two-car accident that just happened, for instance.

The *where* requires work on your part. Use a milepost if you can see one, or say what exit or road junction the accident is near. Give the lane direction too—Interstate 75 southbound at route 35, for example.

By the way, call the state patrol for any accident on a freeway; with so many jurisdictions, this may speed the response by saving you a second call. When reporting any accident, always say how many people may be injured.

Police authorities appreciate accident reports, but they urge you not to put yourself at

risk in any situation. Just report the accident. Then let the police and other emergency service people do their jobs!



from the Dayton ARA "RF Carrier"

"SOS"  
De  
MGY



By Robert Duerr, AA8FK

It is a Sunday evening in April. John Phillips, chief radioman of shipboard station MGY, attempts to work his way through the backlog of messages to and from station MCE at Cape Race, Newfoundland.

At 2140 hours, another ship

interrupts to warn of ice in the area. Phillips has already carried several general ice warnings to the bridge, so he chooses to "spike" the message.

At 2300 hours, as he strains to hear Cape Race, a loud spark signal batters his ears. A freighter only 20 miles away sends, "MGY DE..." But Phillips reaches for his key and interrupts, "QRT DE MGY QRL QRL."

The only radioman aboard that nearby freighter, Cyril Evans, is exhausted after his long work shift. Now angry at the rebuff, he secures his equipment, places the undelivered message on the console, and turns in for the night. The message is an attempt to warn Phillips that the freighter is stopped-surrounded by icebergs.

At 2340 hours, the coffee in Phillips's mug ripples slightly. Soon he notices the surface of the coffee slanting to starboard. As he will learn momentarily, the ship has struck a berg!

On the captain's orders Phillips sends the old distress call, "CQD CQD CQD DE MGY MGY MGY..." Later the captain tells him to use the new signal, "SOS." Phillips continues sending distress signals long after the captain gives the "abandon ship" order.

At 0220 hours on April 15, 1912, radio station MGY slips beneath the frigid, uncaring sea. Radioman Phillips perishes with 1,520 others. The ship that carries the callsign MGY bears the nameplate "Titanic."

from the Dayton ARA "RF Carrier"



\*\*\*A Texan was bragging about his property to his visiting brother from New York. "I can get into my car, drive all day, and still be on my own land."

"Yeah," said the New Yorker, "I had a car like that once too."

\*\*\*Warning signs that your Valentine is bored:

1. Passionless kisses
2. Frequent sighing
3. Moved, no forwarding address.

\*\*\*My friend finally decided to marry. He said he had to- he couldn't go on holding in his stomach forever.

\*\*\*During an office party a woman was asked if her husband was unattached. She said, "No, he's just put together funny"

\*\*\*Husband to wife: "What do you want for Valentine's Day?"

She: "I want a divorce!"

He: "I hadn't planned to spend that much!"

\*\*\*It's getting out of hand. Now lawyers can't decide whether to chase the ambulance or the school bus.

\*\*\*"You look very much like my fourth husband"

"Really? How many times have you been married?"

"Three!"

\*\*\*If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail.

STEVEN WRIGHT HUMOR:

\*\*\*"Here", he said referring to a glass of water. "I mixed this myself. Two parts H and one part O. I don't trust anybody!"

\*\*\*If you bought powdered water what would you mix with it?

\*\*\*If humans are 98 percent water that means we're close to drowning.

\*\*\*It's a good thing we have gravity, or else when birds died they would just stay up there in the sky.

\*\*\*I have a map of the U. S. that is scale size. I spent last summer folding it.

\*\*\*All the plants in my house are dead- I shot them last night.

\*\*\*Still looking for my cordless extension cord.

\*\*\*If I melt dry ice can I take a bath without getting wet?

\*\*\*Why do some irons have a setting for "permanent press"?

\*\*\*My school colors were clear. We used to say, "I'm not naked, I'm in the band."

\*\*\*I'm writing a book. I've got the page numbers done.

\*\*\*After they make styrofoam, what do they ship it in?

\*\*\*I like to reminisce with people I don't know.

\*\*\*"Good morning! Did you sleep good?" "No, I made a few mistakes!"

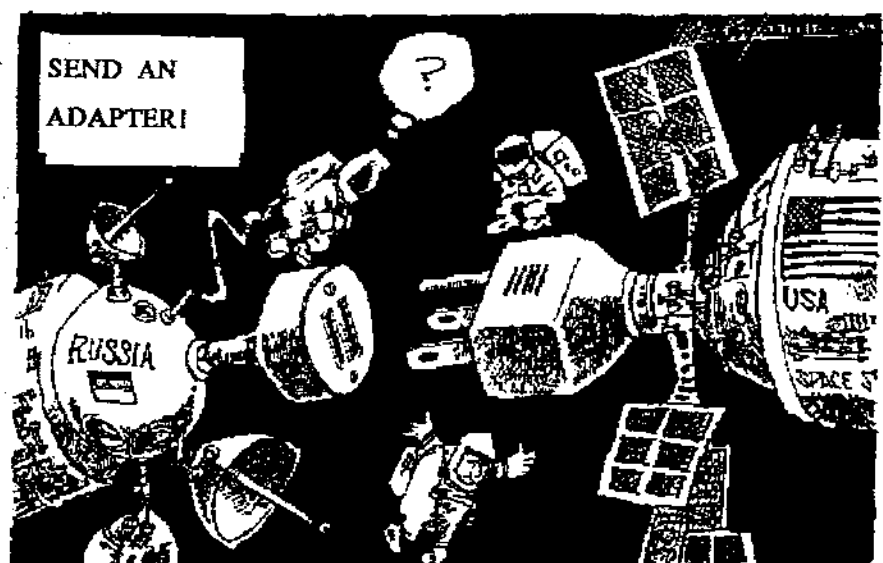
\*\*\*I lost a button hole today.

\*\*\*I needed glasses, so I bought some flip-up contact lenses.

\*\*\*Every so often, I like to go to the window, look up, and smile for a satellite picture.

\*\*\*I had some eyeglasses. I was walking down the street when suddenly the prescription ran out.

\*\*\*I was in the grocery store. The sign said "Pet Supplies", so I did. Then I went outside and saw a sign that said "Compact Cars."



## BENS WEATHER TIPS

By Ben Woods Channel 8 TV

New to the Indianapolis TV market this year are advanced Doppler Radar displays. All three network affiliates now have their own Doppler Radar systems as well as ways to tie in to the National Weather Services WSR-88D Doppler Radar. This means that viewers and hams that have access to ATV (which during severe weather can be set to WISH-TV's Doppler Radar), will be given a flood (no pun intended) of new radar images and products.

AT WISH-TV, we've created a tape featuring our new Doppler technology. It will be transmitted on ATV on repeater Paul Bohrer, W9DUU, at frequency 425.25 mhz on Wednesday February 23 at 8 p.m. The audio will be on the sub-carrier.

Extreme and record-setting cold dominated the weather of last month. In Indianapolis, the morning of January 19th was the coldest ever in the capitol city. At 27 degrees below zero, we surpassed the old record of -25. We also set a state record that same morning. 36 degrees below zero in the town of New Whiteland nipped the previous record of minus 35 in Greensburg, In. We can hope "old-man Winter" will give us a break the rest of the way.

Ben Woods WISH-TV Meteorologist

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## Is this your last SPARK-GAP?

If you have not paid your 1994 dues but intend to re-new your membership be sure to notify NV9K to keep you on the mailing list! Club membership keeps you in touch with your hobby! Don't let your membership expire!

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# MARC

Mid-State Amateur Radio Club

Post Office Box 836 Franklin, In. 46131

Club Repeater: 146.835

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President: Roy Barnes N9FFZ

RACES: Joe Vergara KA9ZPA

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